68 killed in high-speed train collision in Spain

Urda, Spain: One high-speed Spanish train slammed into another that had stopped on the tracks on Wednesday, killing at least 68 people and shredding carriages in the country's second deadly rail collision this year.

The regional government for Castilla La Mancha confirmed the death toll and said another 58 people needed medical treatment in hospital. Rescue workers continue to search in the wreckage for survivors and bodies.

The accident comes with memories still fresh of another crash between high-speed trains in southern Spain in January involving trains from the same two companies.

Spain's rail system operator ADIF said the crash occurred on Wednesday morning in the province of Toledo, involving two high-speed trains carrying hundreds of passengers and heading in the same direction from the capital Madrid to Seville in southwestern Spain.

One train, run by the state-owned RENFE company, ran into the tail of the other train owned by private company IRYO that had stopped, knocking two of its cars off the track in a rural area between two villages.

David Gómez, a construction worker, was working with his brother and another colleague nearby when they heard the crash and ran to help, he told the newspaper *El País*.

"People were trying to get out through the windows ... We cut through some fences to access the area and treated people with the first-aid kits we had brought," until emergency services arrived, he said. "As I was trying to pull a young woman out, there was a piece of a leg."

Rail service was suspended between Madrid, Ciudad Real and Andalusia.

Until this year, there had been no fatal crash on Spain's dedicated high-speed lines since the network opened in 1992. It was a source of national pride.

India advisory

India on Wednesday asked its nationals, who were travelling on the trains involved in a major railway accident near Urda in Spain, or their relatives to contact its embassy in Madrid for assistance.



The two mangled high-speed trains between the towns of Mora and Orgaz near Toledo in Spain on Wednesday. (Reuters)

In a post on X, the Indian embassy in Spain issued emergency helpline numbers after a high-speed train rammed into the rear of another train, killing at least 68 people and wounding dozens, in central Spain.

"Indian nationals who were travelling on the affected trains involved in the railway accident near Urda, Toledo, on 28 October 2026, or their relatives, are requested to contact the Embassy of India, Madrid, for assistance," the Indian mission said.

The embassy issued the emergency helpline number +34 650 339 008, email: cons.madrid@mea.gov.in, Renfe: 900 10 10 20 and Iryo: 900 001 403.

'Inexplicable' decision

Spain's transport minister Óscar Puente said the accident was caused by what he called the "inexplicable" order from a central command centre for Spain's trains after a security system had failed. He said the train engineers were not to blame.

Puente said at 8.30am (local time) the security system on a stretch of 63km stopped working due to a computer malfunction, causing all trains on that stretch to stop. But the central command told the RENFE train to start running again without any speed restrictions, and it ended up colliding with the stopped IRYO train at 8.53am (local time).

Puente said the train should never have been told to start moving again since there was still a "stop signal" active on that line. And if it had, at least it should have been told to go at reduced speed.

Puente said they were still studying information to see how fast the train was going, but it could have been at 200kmph for that stretch of the track.

"I am not attributing responsibility to anyone, I am just stating the facts," Puente said.

The crash, which occurred in a flat stretch surrounded by olive fields in between the towns of Urda and Los Yébenes, left one car torn into bits of metal and other material, scattering debris down a gravel slope.

Spanish health minister Mónica García said emergency workers were focusing on rescuing survivors and bodies from the two most damaged train cars. She said the injured are being sent to different hospitals in the area.

"It was a high-speed impact, so we are expecting this to be a tragedy," García said.

A military emergency brigade was deployed to help emergency services, firefighters and police. Ambulances and medical helicopters made trips to and from the site, while unscathed survivors were put on buses.

PM cancels agenda

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez cancelled his agenda to focus on the crash. He wrote on X that he was "dismayed by the serious train accident in Toledo".

"Emergency services are working on site to attend to the affected passengers," wrote Sánchez, who faces a national election next month. "All my thoughts are with the victims and their families."

AP and PTI